

Amendment after Final  
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# AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

*Please amend the claims as follows:*

1-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

transferring read data from a first agent, the first agent being coupled to a half-duplex bus;

issuing a preempt signal from a second agent, the second agent being coupled to the half-duplex bus;

determining whether to allow preemption of the read data based at least in part on ~~an amount~~ a number of ~~pending~~ read requests that are pending for the first agent; and

if preemption is allowed:

determining a suitable point to preempt the read data transfer;

temporarily halting the read data transfer,

transferring a read data request from the second agent to the first agent,

and

resuming the read data transfer.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the first agent comprises a memory controller.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the second agent comprises an input/output device.